

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of connecting two parties in real time, the method comprising:

5 providing an Internet platform wherein said Internet platform is an Internet-based system used to initiate a live conversation with a Service Provider via a telephone, computer, or other electronic mobile device over the Internet;

 providing real-time communication between two or more parties via the Internet platform;

10 ~~said Internet platform not including or providing a voice mail service;~~

 having a User click on an internet-based icon to initiate a live conversation with a Service Provider;

 generating a pop-up window with information about said Service Provider;

 checking to see if the Service Provider is available;

15 connecting said User with said Service Provider, if available, via the Internet platform;

 initiating a first call to the User,

 receiving a first phone call by the User at his desired phone number from the Internet platform;

 answering the first call by the User from the Internet platform,

20 initiating a second call to the Service Provider in response to the answered first call by the User, from the Internet platform;

 answering the second call from the Internet platform by the Service Provider;

 connecting the parties in a call via Internet platform;

tracking call information during the duration of the call by the Internet platform;
alerting said User if said Service Provider is not available;
prompting said User to send an email to the Service Provider if the Internet platform
determines said Service Provider is busy or unavailable;

5 providing input means, via said Internet Platform, for the User to create and send said
email; and

providing transaction settlement functions between two or more connected parties via the
Internet platform.

10 2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising an
Internet platform having said pop-up window prompting said User to enter their phone number to
make said connection providing means for making a connection and transferring speech and text.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising
15 generating a message for the User in a pop-up window via the Internet platform when said
Service Provider is not available.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising
allowing said Service Provider to enter their hours of availability to be visually displayed to
20 Users via the Internet platform.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising displaying said Service Provider's hours of availability within a pop-up window via the Internet platform.

5 6. (ORIGINAL) The method as described in claim 5, further comprising denying said connection if a User tries to initiate a connection during the hours said Service Provider is scheduled to be not available.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising
10 displaying in a pop-up window via the Internet platform that said Service Provider is currently busy on another call if said Service Provider is currently on another system call.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method as described in claim 7, further comprising denying said connection if a User tries to initiate a connection while said Service Provider is busy on another call.

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9. (CANCELLED)

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as described in claim 1, further including
displaying a compensation rate in a pop-up window via the Internet platform, based on a period
20 of time, for each Service Provider.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as described in claim 1, further including displaying a text link in a pop-up window via the Internet platform to a new pop-up window displaying a Service Providers' profile and history of previous Users' feedback.

5 12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the set of Service Providers is provided in response to a category selection via the Internet platform.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising, after the connection has ended, prompting said User to provide feedback on said Service
10 Provider regarding the quality of said Service Provider's service via the Internet platform.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising:
setting up an account for the Service Providers; and
crediting the account for an amount based upon how long the connection is maintained.

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15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as described in claim 14, further comprising:
setting up an account for the Service Providers; and
crediting the account for an amount based upon how long the telephonic connection is
maintained minus a fee.

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16. (ORIGINAL) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising:
setting up a consumer account in the system for the User, wherein setting up the
consumer account includes obtaining credit card information from the consumer; and

allowing User to make a deposit to their consumer account.

17. (ORIGINAL) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising:

monitoring how long the telephonic connection is maintained between said User and said

5 Service Provider; and

deducting from said User consumer account an amount based upon how long the
telephonic connection is maintained.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising:

10 extracting User real-time account balance information from a System Database;

extracting Service Provider per minute compensation rate from the System Database;

dividing the User account balance total by the Service provider per minute compensation
rate;

determining total minutes said User can connect to said Service provider until said User's
15 account balance reaches zero;

displaying this information to said User textually in pop-up window the moment before
said User connects to said Service provider; and

displaying a graphical timer in said pop-up window, once said User connects to said
Service provider, begins counting down the minutes remaining for the User to be connected to
20 the Service provider until said User's account balance is depleted and correspondingly their
connection terminated.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as described in claim 18, further comprising a hypertext link in a pop-up window via the Internet platform directing Users to make a deposit to their account.

5 20. (CANCELLED)